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INCOMING
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USINFO FOR PGH/RC, VOA, STATE/EA/J, SECDEF FOR JCS/J-5/
FE/JAPAN, ASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN, OASD/PA, CIA WASHDC
USDOC/JAMES FOR SOE, TREASURY/INA, WSC FOR JAMES COCHRAN
M. PLATT, AMEMBASSY PARIS FOR USOCG/ICA FOR HOFFMAN
AND WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC

E.O. 12065: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT, JANUARY 28, 1980

JAPANESE TELEVISION NETWORKS AND NEWSPAPERS GAVE
PROMINENT WEEKEND COVERAGE TO REPORTS AND COMMENTS ON
AFGHAN AND IRANIAN DEVELOPMENTS.

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NHK-TV COMMENTATOR TAKAHASHI COMMENTED JANUARY 25 ON PRIME
MINISTER OHIRA'S POLICY SPEECH BEFORE THE DIET THAT DAY
AND NOTED THAT IN IT THE PRIME MINISTER CRITICIZED THE
SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN. THE COMMENTATOR
SAID THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TAKES A SERIOUS VIEW
OF THE AFGHAN SITUATION BECAUSE OF ITS EFFECTS ON DETENTE.
TAKAHASHI SAID JAPAN SHOULD WATCH THE SITUATION
CAREFULLY AND TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES ON ITS OWN.

THE MORNING EDITIONS OF THE NATIONAL DAILIES ALSO LED
WITH AFGHAN AND IRANIAN REPORTS.

THE YOHIOURI, HAINICHI AND THE SAMEI TOPPED REPORTS ON
THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE'S (USOC) DECISION TO ACCEPT

PRESIDENT CARTER'S CALL FOR BOYCOTT OF THE MOSCOW OLYMPICS.

THE MONDAY MORNING EDITIONS ALSO FRONTED REPORTS FROM
TERHAM-WIICH QUOTED FINANCE MINISTER BANI-SABR, APPARENT
PRESIDENT-ELECT, AS TELLING A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT JAPAN'S
RELATIONS WITH IRAN WOULD WORSEN IF THE JAPANESE GOVERN-
MENT PARTICIPATED IN U.S. SPONSORED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS
AGAINST IRAN.

THE ASAMI SAID BANI-SABR STATED THAT THE WAY TOWARD
SOLUTION OF THE HOSTAGE SITUATION CAN BE FOUND "IF THE
U.S. CHANGES ITS POLICY OF CONTROLLING IRAN AND ABANDONS
ITS EXPANSIONIST POLICY."

AMONG THE MONDAY MORNING EDITORIALS, THE YOHIOURI SUGGESTED
THAT JAPAN COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. GRAIN EMBARGO AGAINST
THE SOVIET UNION BY PURCHASING THE SURPLUS.

THE YOHIOURI SAID: "THE SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION IN
AFGHANISTAN HAS MADE US REALIZE THE NEED OF STRENGTHENING

OUR NATIONAL SECURITY. ONE WAY TO ACHIEVE THAT IS BY
STOCKPILING FOOD FOR EMERGENCY."

THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED: "PRESIDENT CARTER HAS PUT AN
EMBARGO ON U.S. GRAIN SALES TO THE SOVIET UNION AS
PART OF ITS SANCTIONS AGAINST THE SOVIETS. THIS DEVELOP-
MENT GIVES US A CHANCE TO SET IN MOTION OUR FOOD STOCK-
PILING STRATEGY BOTH FROM MEDIUM AND LONG-RANGE VIEWPOINTS.
THE PRIVATE POLICY PLANNING FORUM HAS COME UP WITH A
BOLD PROPOSAL THAT JAPAN BUY UP ALL THE U.S. GRAIN
WITHHELD FROM THE SOVIETS, BUT ON THE CONDITION THAT THE
GRAIN INVOLVED, ABOUT 17 MILLION TONS VALUED AT SOME
\$2 BILLION, BE STORED IN THE U.S."

"ADMITTING THAT THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS THAT MUST BE SOLVED
BEFORE IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSAL, THE POLICY RESEARCH
GROUP'S BASIC VIEW POINT IS THE SAME AS OURS CONCERNING
THE FOOD STOCKPILING.

"JAPAN SHOULD MAKE USE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER
SOLIDIFY ITS TIES WITH THE U.S. AND ENHANCE ITS STATUS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. SUCH AN ACTION WILL ALSO
SERVE IN EXPRESSING JAPAN'S 'DISPLEASURE' TO MOSCOW
IN CONCRETE TERMS."

A. HARTWICH SAID: "THERE IS A SMALL WAY OF HOPE IN THE
IRANIAN HOSTAGE PROBLEM WHICH HAS ENTERED A NEW STAGE AS
A RESULT OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN."
THE EDITORIAL ADDED, "IT CAN BE SAID THAT U.N.
SECRETARY GENERAL WALDMAN'S EFFORTS TO SEEK A PACKAGE
SOLUTION BY LINKING RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

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ON THE FORMER SHAH PAHLAVI PROBLEM HAS SHOWN SIGNS OF
MATERIALIZING.

"...THIS MOVE CAN BE WELCOMED BECAUSE THE HOSTAGE
INCIDENT HAS MADE THE U.S. SEEK ECONOMIC SANCTIONS
AGAINST IRAN AND CALLED FOR THE COOPERATION OF THE
WESTERN NATIONS WHICH HAS PERPLEXED JAPAN.

"IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, PRESIDENT CARTER
DID NOT MENTION ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN AND
INDICATED A CONCILIATORY POSTURE. WE STRONGLY HOPE
THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SHOW SELF-
RESTRAINT SO THAT WALDHEIM'S MEDIATION EFFORTS WILL
SUCCEED."

THE YOMIURI ALSO CARRIED AN EDITORIAL JANUARY 26 ON THE
OHIRA POLICY SPEECH TO THE DIET. "THE PRIME MINISTER
SAID JAPAN MUST NOT KEEP ITSELF ALOOF FROM MEASURES
AGAINST THE SOVIET ACTION EVEN IF IT MIGHT INVOLVE SOME
SACRIFICES ON THE PART OF JAPAN."

"HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT JAPAN HAS NO INTENTION OF
ENGAGING IN ANY ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT UNDERMINE THE
MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO JAPAN.
WE AGREE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEW. SO LONG AS
JAPAN'S DIPLOMACY IS BASED ON ITS COOPERATION WITH THE
U.S., IT IS QUITE NATURAL FOR THIS COUNTRY TO TAKE MEASURES
IN CONCERT WITH THE U.S. TO A DEGREE THAT WILL NOT
INFRINGE UPON JAPAN'S INDEPENDENCE." HAMOLSKY, ACTING

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